

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2002

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
Committee on Budget
309 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Jim:

We are writing to express our support for the elimination of the current offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation, commonly known as concurrent receipt.

Under present law, service-disabled military retirees must surrender a portion of their retired pay if they want to receive the disability compensation to which they are entitled. **Congress enacted this unjust law in 1891, and it affects approximately 500,000 disabled military retirees.** Military retirees are the only federal employees affected by the offset. For over 15 years, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives to correct this long-standing inequity. The Retired Pay Restoration Act has received strong bipartisan support in Congress with 378 cosponsors in the House and 75 cosponsors in the Senate.

The Fiscal Year 2002 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1438) authorizes an end to this unfair practice. However, this provision is contingent upon funding being provided. Consequently, we strongly urge you to include the appropriate language in the Fiscal Year 2003 budget resolution so that the brave men and women who served our nation can finally receive the retired pay they earned.

Once again, our nation is calling upon the members of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom. We have no doubt that these brave men and women will rise to the challenge. However, for those of them who have selected to make their career in the U.S. military, they face an unknown risk. If they are injured, they will be forced to forego their earned retired pay in order to receive their VA disability compensation. In effect, they will be paying for their own disability benefits from their retirement checks.

We have a unique opportunity this year to redress the unfair practice of requiring disabled military retirees to fund their own disability compensation. It is time for us to show our appreciation to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our great nation.

We stand ready to work with you on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bilirakis Wally Herger

John Cooney Tom O'Donnell

Mike Rove Mark Beggs

Sheldon Byrd Peter King

Walter B. Jones Tim Kaine

Sam Vetter

Paul Conn

Heather D. /

Sw

Bob Riley

Ciro D Rodriguez

April

Max Jande

Glenn Emerson

Eric Carter

Don Wolda

Fred Strickland

Jim Jener

Karen L. Thurman

Robert Wexler

FBess

Mimi M. Styer

Frank A. LoBiondo

Robert P. Lynch

Mike Doyle

Jim Longene

Mike Thompson

Willie

Mark Beale

Jim Longene

Dan Miller

Jim Gibbons

Norm Sachs

Bob Feltner

Marye Penhune

Ed Pastor

Jennifer Dunn

Chad Edwards

Chad
Susan Davis

Virgil Goode

Dennis J. Kucenich

John Hancock

Lynn V. Rivers

Tom Allen

William L. Johnson

Pat "Butch" Allen

John Bolducci

Rick Lansen

~~Steve Ry-~~

Steve Perry

James McChrist

Ray Hall

Henry Hill

Jim Murray

John B Lansen

Mark Kennedy

Phil English

Forrest Shoup

Art Blumenthal

Doug Walden

James B. Clyburn

Robert E. Smith

Jeff Ayres

Tom Davis

Brian Derris

Charles B. Zenger

Ed Whitfull

Patrick J. Tiberi

Jim DeMint

Mike Honda

Frank D. Lucas

Chip Pickens

Ron Paul

Robert Hayes

Jim McRoven

Wm. Lacy Clay

Ed Bryant

Mark Doley

Joe Sauer

Jeff Miller

Delene Horley

Mike Camp

Sue Kelly

Jo Ann Davis

Ernie Fletcher

Marion Perry

Jimmy Wall

John

Mark Souder

Carolyn McCarthy

Harry

Paul Ryan

Pete Sessions

Vinny Deen

With Delahue

La. Holtz

Julia Carson

Jade Krugman

Sam Johnson

Betty McCollum

Fanny Balchum

John Ahn

Leonard L. Brame Steven M. Nothman

Myron W. Rush Holt

Sammy V. Juba Joe Hoefel

Vit Fossell Sally Chambers

Clark E. Golder Pete H. Hyslop

Bill Shuster Rick Boucher

Cliff Hunter Lynn C. Wolsey

Man Koon

Sheng Schmitt

Gary Zackman

Wm Diaz Brown

A. D. Ory

Bruce

Cliff Henry

Janne Mrella

Ralph M. Hall

David E. Bower

Patsy T. Drink

John Duncanson

Ernest Stork

E. Clayshaw

Richard Pombo

Jim Boren

Ed Hayes

Maureen Hendry

Robert A Underwood

Carrie P Meek

[Signature]

Marty Meha

Steve Buzs

Mapine Waters

Jim Oberstar

Howard L. Berner

Alan L. Miller

[Signature]

Banney/Kumb

Bart Stupak

Barney/Kaplan

Bar CRAMER

Bart Gordon

J Roddy Forbes

Tom Lautes

Ken Silver

Tom Osborne

Anders Crenshaw

Zach Wamp

Greg R. Nettles, Jr.

Greg Fickel

John F. Tierney

Donald A. Manzullo Ed Fenech

Les Capps Tony Lu

Salvatore Ed Spina

Ally 1 Costello Paul E. Kengor

Bob Goodlatte Bob Sanders

Congress Robert J. Matsui

Tim Holden Gene Taylor

Mike Row
AR-4

Jimmy Lehberg

John Gu IL-20

Allen Boyd

Charlie Norwood

Michael R. McHale

Sam Farr

Janet Hollister Jones